

Renters Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Finances
 - What is the rent per month?
 - What day of the month is rent due?
 - Is a security deposit required?
 - Does the lease say rent can be increased?
 - Does the rent include heat, water, electricity, cable or Internet?
 - Will parking cost extra?
 - Who has to pay for repairs - big ones and small ones?
 - Terminating the agreement - how much notice does each party need to give?
- Area and Space
 - Can extra belongings such as bikes, luggage be stored?
 - Is the rental space close to services that are used regularly? (groceries, bank)
 - Is the rental space clean?
 - How is refuse/garbage disposal handled?
 - Are there any signs of insects present?
 - Who does the snow shoveling and grass cutting?
 - Are there laundry facilities?
 - Is there Internet service or can it be installed?
 - Where can vehicles be parked?
 - Is the area well lit at night?
 - How quiet or noisy is the rental space?
 - Do the walls seem hollow (when thumped) or solid?
 - Can you hear neighbors upstairs, downstairs, or on either side of you?
- House rules
 - Are visitors and overnight guests allowed?
 - Are you permitted to share household appliances?
 - Are smoking and/or alcohol allowed?
 - Are pets permitted?
 - Privacy issues?